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PROGRAM Weekend Report

STATION WRC Radio and  
NBC Network

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CPYRGHT

ROBERT McCORMICK: "Cuba came back into the news last week, and promises to achieve even greater prominence as time goes on. NBC's Richard Valeriani, an old hand in Latin America, is keeping track of developments."

RICHARD VALERIANI: "It was just not Fidel Castro's week -- the Cuban prime minister lost an embassy in Brazil, a market in the United States, and part of a sugar mill in Oriente Province. Brazil's action in breaking diplomatic relations with Havana had been expected ever since the ouster of left-wing President João Goulart. When it finally came it revived talk of a hemispheric foreign ministers meeting, to consider charges of aggression against Cuba for having sent arms and ammunition to anti-government guerrillas in Venezuela.

"Brazil, under Goulart has been a leader of the opposition to collective action against Castro. One potential result of the foreign ministers meeting is a total economic and diplomatic boycott of Cuba within the hemisphere. That's one of the goals of this country's Cuban policy. Washington moved last week to strengthen that policy by applying more economic pressure on Castro, both at home and abroad. A license is now required for shipments of food and medicine to Cuba. They had previously been exempt from the U.S. embargo on trade with Castro. The American action followed efforts by the Cuban government to buy drugs and lard in this country.

"Abroad, Secretary of State Dean Rusk again urged our NATO allies to cooperate with our policy to isolate Cuba. Great Britain showed some signs of cracking down on future sales to the Castro regime. The most dramatic anti-Castro move was made by a band of exile raiders who struck at a sugar mill on Cuba's southeastern coast. The attack was carried out by the revolutionary recovery movement, headed by Manuel Artimez, one of the top leaders of the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion. Since the 1961 invasion, several such attacks have taken place in what has amounted to no more than a series of one-raid war. The claims of their success are generally exaggerated, and their value is questionable. The raids always produce a ritual of accusations from Havana and denial from Washington. The U. S. government insists there is no American involvement of any